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February 5, 2021

Thank you for subscribing to my weekly newsletter. Below you will find important federal, state and local updates from the last week curated for you in one place.

This week, Speaker of the House Dade Phelan announced committee assignments for the 87th Legislative Session. I was placed on the <u>Public Education Committee</u>, where I am looking forward to working with Chairman Harold Dutton, with whom I have served on the committee for a decade.

I am also pleased to be serving my first term on the <u>Licensing & Administrative Procedures Committee</u>. I look forward to a productive session, and I will continue to work toward passing legislation that betters District 127 and all Texans.

Should you have any questions about the information below, please do not hesitate to contact us. Please utilize email communication with our office during this time, via the email contact information at the bottom of this newsletter.

Sincerely,



### 87th Legislative Session

Speaker Dade Phelan Announces Committee Assignments for 87th Legislature



#### **Texas House of Representatives**

Texas Speaker of the House Dade Phelan (Beaumont) announced House committee assignments for the 87th Legislature. "The State of Texas has arrived at a pivotal moment in its history - one that requires...

#### Read more

house.texas.gov

# Rep. Huberty's Current Legislative Agenda

**HB** 767 - Relating to best management practices for aggregate production operations.

<u>HB 805</u>- Relating to certain increases in benefits under the firefighters' relief and retirement fund in certain municipalities.

<u>HB 827</u> - Relating to the disclosure of vehicle speed information to a law enforcement agency by an entity that operates a toll project.

<u>HB 900</u> - Relating to the liability of a landlord for damages resulting from the execution of a writ of possession in an eviction suit.

<u>HB 1147</u> - Relating to military readiness for purposes of the college, career, or military readiness outcomes bonus under the Foundation School Program.

<u>HB 1428</u> - Relating to procurement by a political subdivision of a contingent fee contract for legal services.

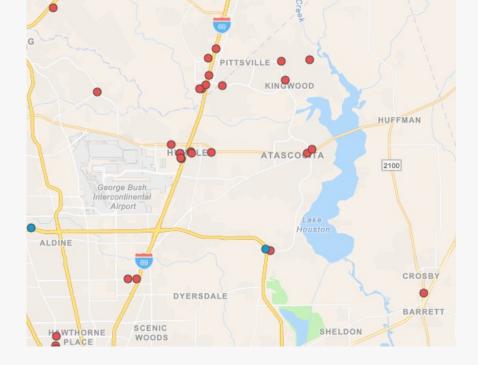
<u>HB 1603</u> - Relating to the use of individual graduation committees and other alternative methods to satisfy certain public high school graduation requirements.

### **Bill Status Hotline**

The Legislative Reference Library introduced a bill status hotline: 877-824-7038 (toll-free in Texas)

### State Updates

COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Map



Click the image to view an interactive map

### Gov. Abbott delivers State of the State Address



# **COVID Vaccine Allocation Update**



### Texas Department of State Health Services

At the end of last week, 1 of every 14 Texans at least 16 years old has initiative vaccination. 1 out of every 6 persons 65 and older has also initiated vaccination. Our vaccination cadence is increasing — with 4.5 weeks needed to reach one million doses administered and 2 weeks to reach the second million doses administered.

#### Texas to receive more than 500,000 first doses of...

The state of Texas will receive 520,425 first doses of COVID-19 vaccine from the federal government for the week of Feb. 1. The Texas Department of State Health Services has instructed the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to ship those...

#### Read more

www.dshs.texas.gov

# TEA Seeking Stakeholder Feedback on P-TECH and T-STEM Blueprints



# Governor Abbott, HHSC Announce Extension of Emergency SNAP Benefits for February 2021



### Governor Abbott, HHSC Announce Extension of Emergency...

Governor Greg Abbott today announced that the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) will provide approximately \$300 million in emergency Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) food benefits for the month of February as the...

#### Read more

gov.texas.gov

### Governor Abbott Wants YOU

Since he was first sworn in, Governor Abbott has made more than 2,700 appointments. The Appointments Office is constantly seeking applications from capable and qualified Texans who have a love of public service and a willingness to contribute their time and talent to help make the future of Texas brighter. You are our best

ambassadors. Please encourage others to apply to serve.

Please click <u>here</u> to find the application, information on what to include, and instruction on how to submit an application.



### City of Houston & Harris County Updates

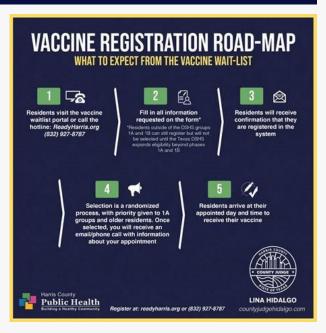
# Harris County Public Health Dashboard



### Harris County Public Health Expands Vaccine Registration Process with New COVID-19 Vaccination Portal

On January 26th, Harris County Public Health (HCPH) launched a new COVID-19 <u>Vaccination Portal</u> for residents who meet the Texas Department of State Health Services(DSHS) criteria for receiving a vaccine. The portal allows individuals to be placed on a waitlist and contacted once vaccines and appointments are available.

Harris County's new "Smart Waitlist" system does not use a first-come, first-served process for allocating vaccines. In order to ensure fair access for elderly residents, working families, and vulnerable populations, registrants on the waitlist are instead selected through a prioritization and randomization process in accordance with state guidelines. Only individuals who fall under the DSHS Phase 1A and 1B category are eligible to receive the vaccine at this stage. Those who are not qualified to receive the vaccine under 1A or 1B are able to be placed on the waitlist but will not be contacted to schedule an appointment until the State of Texas expands eligibility beyond 1A and 1B, likely not until the Spring or Summer.



## "Stay Smart, Do Your Part"

Harris County Public Health is launching the "Stay Smart, Do Your Part" campaign as part of a community outreach effort to inform and educate people on the arrival of the COVID-19 vaccines.

You can explore the website by clicking <u>here</u>.

If you click on the image to the right, you will find

the COVID-19 vaccine toolkit. This PDF contains the latest information on vaccines, frequently asked questions, and myths and facts about the vaccine.

If you would like to register for a COVID-19 vaccine, please click here.



# GLO Accepting Applications for Homeowner Assistance Program



### District 127 Updates

Partnership Lake Houston to Participate in BinaxNow Rapid COVID-19 Test Pilot Program



Management (TDEM) announced a Small Business COVID-19 Rapid Testing Program. The program invited Partnership Lake Houston to participate in the distribution of free BinaxNow rapid COVID-19 tests to small businesses in our community.

The Partnership will be provided with a select number of BinaxNow test kits and facemasks to be distributed to small businesses. Businesses will then have the opportunity to administer these tests to their employees. Small businesses interested in participating should complete the interest form by Monday,

February 8. For more information on the program, click <u>here</u>.

Submit Interest Here

### Harris County Precinct 4 Encore Department

Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner R. Jack Cagle is committed to providing older adults with special services through the Precinct 4 Encore.

Upon hearing that many of our constituents are having difficulty signing up their local, elderly, and eligible parents for vaccinations, Commissioner Cagle has assigned our HCP4 Encore Department to field calls and assist seniors or their loved ones through the process.

The HCP4 Encore staff is available as a resource that aims to offer more information on the vaccination registration process. They are available by phone from **8 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday at 713-274-4050**.

#### The Encore staff CAN:

Help older adults get on the waitlist to receive a vaccine Assist loved ones and caregivers on the registration process Provide one on one assistance on vaccine resources and options

#### The Encore staff CANNOT:

Offer medical advice Circumvent the registration process established by Harris County Tell people where they are on the waitlist or when they will be contacted

### Staff Highlight: Matthew Lair, District Intern



Matthew Lair is a senior at the University of Houston pursuing a degree in political science with a minor in law, values, and policy.

In fall 2018, Matthew volunteered for candidates at the federal and local levels in the midterm elections. He later interned for his local congressman and Arizona Senator Martha McSally in Washington DC.

Matthew participated in the Civic Houston Internship Program in fall 2020, continuing his time in Washington DC with a political consulting firm. In this role, he created and implemented campaign and fundraising strategies to help candidates and political action committees accomplish their goals.

Matthew will spend the semester interning in our office for Chairman Huberty and House District 127. He is excited to engage with district residents and help make government work for the people who need it most. Education and Healthcare are just a few of the many social issues Matthew is passionate about working on this semester.

In his spare time, Matthew enjoys reading a book from his favorite author Brené Brown, playing with friends on the tennis court, and spending time on the yoga mat. We are excited to have him working in our office and on behalf of HD 127.

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